

MEMORIAL FUND. BEAVER GARD. AN. 1880.

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## Bucks County Gazette:

JESSE O. THOMAS, Editor.

Thursday, March 11, 1880.

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## A SUGGESTION.

There seems to be a lull in the Presidential boom, but the candidates, like John Brown's body, still are marching on. It is as difficult now to predict who will be the nominee of the two great parties as to foretell a solution of the gem puzzle. Two things are patent, however, even to the least observing person. Grant is not the choice of the Republican party, and Tilden is not the choice of the Democratic party. If Grant and Tilden shall be pitted against each other, the country will have nothing to do but to choose between two evils. Which of them would be the less, would be difficult to decide. The case then stands thus: Grant's nomination would dissatisfy many Republicans, Tilden's nomination would dissatisfy many Democrats. This being the state of affairs, what could be more appropriate than the union of the Grant and Tilden forces in a joint convention. Grant could then be nominated for President and Tilden for Vice President, or Tilden for President and Grant for Vice President. The little matter of precedence upon the ticket could doubtless be settled amicably between the two persons interested. By this means the objectionable elements in both parties would be united, and the patriotic, liberty-loving Republicans and Democrats, who desire only that the government shall be administered for the public good, could then call a convention and nominate a ticket which all independent, honest and sincere lovers of Republican institutions could support with pleasure.

The Indianapolis Journal and Chicago Tribune announce that Indiana, by her district conventions, indicated that it would go to the National Convention with its 80 votes solid for Blaine.

They call attention to one important fact in that connection, namely, that this action will be the result of a spontaneous, free expression. "The absence of all 'machine' influences," they say, "or packing processes, was very notable in Indiana when compared with the proceedings of the New York and Pennsylvania conventions run by Conkling and Cameron. There was no attempt to influence any of the voters. There were no instructions, except in one district, and no resolutions calculated to create dissensions in the party. The Blaine men were nominally in the majority everywhere, but they took no advantage of their preponderant strength to crush out the minority." Therefore, they continue: "The popular sentiment of Indiana is entitled to the most respectful consideration in the Republican Convention. Indiana is a doubtful State as well as New York. It is the one State—the only State—to which the Republicans can turn in case the loss of New York be threatened. If the Republican sentiment of Indiana be averse to the third term movement, as the action of the district conventions certainly indicates, then the National Convention cannot commit itself to the third term idea without incurring the danger of losing votes enough to make Democratic success in that State certain." And the conclusion is that there is strong faith in Indiana that James G. Blaine can carry the State next November.

The New York Times concludes an editorial on the third-term principle with the statement that "the simple question is whether General Grant, with his virtues and faults—which have all been subjected to the most searching scrutiny in the full blaze of publicity—is the choice of the American people to their President again. If he is, they have an undoubted right to the choice." With this opinion we heartily concur; but the choice of the people, and the choice of the "machine" are by no means one and the same thing. We do not believe that even the Times is prepared to assert that the choice of the people of Pennsylvania is General Grant, or that the majority of the delegates in the Harrisburg convention were favorable to his candidacy; yet Senator Cameron succeeded in forcing the acceptance of the unit rule, and thus practically secured a Grant delegation to the Chicago Convention. That the same tactics were employed at Union by Senator Conkling the Times is also well aware of; and in assuming, therefore, that the choice of the people is the choice of the machine it assumes what it most knows is essentially false, and what the public will recognize as a stupid piece of special pleading. General Grant may be the choice of the most powerful political combination in the Republican party, but he is not the choice of the people; and if he is forced upon them by the action of the Chicago Convention, they may decline to support his nomination. There are times when the people are stronger than the machine, and refuse to throw themselves under its heavy wheels.

The Legislative bribery cases were again called in the criminal court at Harrisburg on Monday, and to the surprise of every one they took a very unexpected turn. Instead of the suburban contest that was looked for, from the persistency with which the accused have fought the charges, a plea of guilty was immediately entered by Salter, followed by Crawford, Kemble, who pleaded guilty, but protested his innocence, and Rumberger. The penalty is a fine not exceeding \$1,000, and imprisonment not exceeding one year.

Congressman Eulit says that Blaine is much the most available Presidential candidate on the republican side, and that the Illinois delegates will go to the Convention uncommitted.

The Hamburg, Berks county, Councils, following the lead of Bristol, passed an ordinance exempting from taxation for ten years all manufacturing establishments costing \$10,000 or more.

At Middletown, N. Y., five women were elected school directors over five men. The women were the only candidates on their ticket that were chosen.

## POLITICAL DEBATE IN CONGRESS.

And Fitz John Porter.

Although at the opening of the present session of Congress it was given out that political debate would be avoided, last Tuesday found both branches of Congress engaged in partisan discussion. In the lower house the debate was upon the Political Assessment Bill, a measure designed to prevent assessments upon office-holders for political purposes. If the bill will abolish the evil it is aimed at, its passage will be a cause for congratulation. But nobody is so weak minded as to believe that either political party is in favor of carrying out the provisions of the bill, if it becomes a law, if it can in any way be evaded. To enforce such a law honestly and rigidly, would cut off the views of war which the political leaders expect to have to aid them in the approaching campaign. The Democrats may favor the measure at present, but it is only because they think it will injure their opponents.

In the Senate the case of Fitz John Porter has been the bone of contention. The Democrats, of course, rally solidly to his support, and as a natural consequence the Republican Senators, with hardly an exception, are against him, and believe that the longer the matter is discussed the worse it will be for Fitz John Porter and the Democratic party. Nearly all the Democrats, and some weak-kneed Republicans, who have not yet learned the folly of helping fight the battles of their enemies, profess to believe that Fitz John Porter is an ill-used and persecuted patriot. They imagine, therefore, that all Republican journals which do not agree with them are actuated by partisan feeling. If a Democratic newspaper were to denounce the claimant for \$50,000 and reinstatement in the army, perhaps they would acknowledge that there are two sides to the question. Well, a Democratic journal, whose Democracy cannot be doubted, the New York Sun, appears to entertain strong doubts in regard to the propriety of Congress coming to the relief of Fitz John Porter. Like Truthful James "his language is plain," and we give our Democratic readers an opportunity of reading what they should consider sound Democratic doctrine, since it comes from the organ of Samuel J. Tilden, their late and perhaps prospective candidate for President. This is what the Sun says:

"After reviewing the wrongs and grievances, past and present, caused by the people of the United States, the Democratic members of the Senate appear to have selected the claim of Fitz John Porter to a rehabilitated reputation and \$50,000 of back pay, as the subject of their great fight for the present session, the last session before the Presidential election.

"This suggests that so long as the Democratic party continues to have Senators and Representatives in Congress, their opponents never need despair. It would be a strange spectacle, should all the Confederate Generals in Congress be forced on Porter's side, and the Union Generals on the other, with the Democratic party thereupon gravely staking on Porter its political fortunes for the coming national struggle.

"Why should Congress be called upon at this juncture to restore Gen. Porter to the army and put \$50,000 in his pocket? Certainly he has been years enough out of the army to stay out without harming it or himself; and as for the \$50,000 pay he asks, it is obvious that he has never earned a dollar of it, but, on the contrary, has done his living from other employments. It is said that he would have asked that sum if he had not been unjustly cast out of the army. That does not follow, for many regular officers assigned a military for a civil life at the end of the war, and in this, as in other respects, Porter might have followed the lead of his comrades. He would be but reasonable for Gen. Porter to demand his earnings in civil life from his demands for military services not performed, though perhaps then the balance would be the other way.

"It was obviously Gen. Porter's oversight that he was dismissed from the army. His messages to Burnside, of August, 1862, show that he was vexed beyond endurance at being ordered to quit McClellan's army and join Pope's; that he expressed the utmost contempt for the movements he was supposed to be aiding; that he besought Burnside to do what he could to get him and his corps away from Pope, leaving the latter to his fate. When a man who writes such despatches is found on the selfsame days to have been sluggish in obeying some of Pope's orders, and to have disobeyed others, what judgment can he expect? A court martial, called while the smart and chagrin of Pope's defeat and route were still fresh, would not be likely to hold Porter's spirit and conduct blameless.

"It is said that Gen. Porter deserves vindication from the odium unjustly cast upon his honor as a soldier and a patriot. That is a different matter. He has already had a board of inquiry. Speechmaking in Congress cannot vindicate him, nor can the use of money. Those things do not alter history. On historic evidence he was condemned, and by historic evidence only can the condemnation be revised. The Schofield Board says that newly produced evidence goes to show that Porter knew more about the enemy's strength than Pope did, and so was justified in his conduct on Aug. 29, 1862. If these be correct conclusions, Gen. Porter is historically vindicated there. He could not have a second court martial, because he is no longer in the army; but for historic purposes he can have, and he has had, a military inquiry. If this be not enough, let him have a second, third, fourth, and fifth. All this does not alter the fact that by inexcusable indiscretion, to use the mildest term—and even the Schofield Board accuses him of that—he himself brought his troops to the loss of the battle, and to the duty of Congress to vote him money and rank above that opportunity to publicly vindicate himself which he has already had."

[Correspondence Bucks County Gazette.]  
WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, March 8th, 1880.  
EDITOR GAZETTE.—The House has ceased its labors upon its new code of rules adopting them as finally amended, under the call of the previous question made by Mr. Blackburn. Of course, they were adopted by a party vote, for the Republicans contested to the last, Mr. Conger even compelling a ye and nay vote, though he did not attempt to filibuster. The new rules are undoubtedly open to fair and independent criticism, notwithstanding the many improvements made in pruning them of obsolete and useless provisions. No appropriation of public moneys should be permitted save upon a ye and nay vote, and no appropriation bill should contain general legislation on any pretext whatever—this specified permission of retrenching expenditures is a specious one which will permit easy evasion. In other, though minor respects, too much latitude is given for depletion of the Treasury by designing persons, and we predict that the most pernicious legislation of the future will, as in the past, be rushed through Congress by means of the loop-holes afforded by the lack

of the safeguards above. Senator Randolph opened up the bill on the Fitz John Porter case in the Senate, with an able and ingenious defense, and there is a promise of a prolonged debate. Senator Logan's rejoinder occupied several days, and should other Senators deem the ground engaged sufficiently covered by him, the end of the debate is problematical. This discussion is not upon the House bill, which proposed pardon and reinstatement and the payment of \$75,000 as back pay, but upon a substitute offered by Senator Randolph, which gives only pardon, with reinstatement on the retired list. It is unfortunate for Gen. Porter that this matter, so vital and important to him, should have been made a political issue between the two parties in Congress, for there is much less likelihood of impartial justice being done him. We have often urged his pardon on the ground that he was no more guilty of wrong than Gen. McClellan, whose disobedience of the President's peremptory orders of August 10, 11, 24 and 27, are wholly indefensible. Porter was made the scape-goat, and now, owing to the political aspect given his case, it will be hard for him to secure relief.

The pension question is becoming a most serious one to Congress, and how best to dispose of it perplexes the minds of no few of the saloons. Mr. Coffey has introduced into the House a bill establishing a Pension Court, to which shall be referred the many cases rejected by the Pension Office. This is a most judicious and commendable measure. The Pension Office cannot, in the nature of things, be otherwise than technical, hence the need of another tribunal empowered to rule upon the equities of a case. Congress, in view of the immense national business before it, is certainly not the place to hear and adjudicate upon such small matters as rejected pension cases, since it is clearly within the province of an ordinary Court or Board of Judges to perform such duty, and it is to be hoped Mr. C.'s bill will soon become a law. Soldiers will then have a proper court of appeal, instead of the present most unsatisfactory course of procedure.

The citizens of the northeastern portion of the city are intensely excited over a brutal and murderous assault and rape committed recently on a young woman by a negro. She was knocked senseless by a blow which severed one of her ears, and then had her person outraged. Her face and body were covered with bruises; her throat bore finger-marks of severe choking, and so severely injured was she that her life is not yet fully assured. Within the last three years several similar outrages have been committed in this locality, and naturally its citizens are aroused to a fever heat, and are demanding increased protection. Senator Harris has taken one step in that direction by introducing a bill making rape punishable with death. The supposed perpetrator in this case has been arrested, and though the girl herself is unable to identify her assailant, yet the circumstantial evidence against him is so conclusive that, were he not strongly guarded by the police, he would undoubtedly be lynched.

The trial of the Hitt murderers terminated with a verdict of guilty, but, as "changing is played out" here, of course, they will languish a year or two in the penitentiary preparatory to a return to former haunts and vices. Another negro murderer, Stone, under sentence of death for the murder of his wife, and for cutting the throat of her sister, has been respited thirty days, and doubtless he, too, will soon be snugly ensconced at Sing Sing.

Our courts present us with a most singular incident. A Miss Jessie Raymond died a bit by her attorney, Mr. Lockwood, against Senator Hill, charging him with her seduction in Atlanta, Ga., in November, 1877, and with being the father of her young child. But the next day our city papers contained a card, signed by the plaintiff, denying the whole charge, and alleging that Mrs. Lockwood died the bill without her knowledge or consent, and stating, further, that she never made oath to it. Thereupon Mrs. Lockwood appears in a card to the contrary, and supports her statement with the indisputable proofs. The notary certifies Miss Raymond did take the oath. Mrs. Lockwood is one of the most persistent and pertinacious attorneys of our bar, and now that her professional conduct is impugned, Senator Hill will find himself in hot water before he has done with her, and will undoubtedly have cause to regret this feature, at least, of the fight. Such a direct charge might do when made against Sampson Brass, but not against Mrs. Lockwood, and this unsavory chapter of scandal will be relished in many bearings before it is ended, now that she is on her mettle.

Mr. DeGreaves, the Government Printer, is stirring up matters by indefinitely furloughing over 1,000 of his employees, on the ground of want of funds to pay them. He claims that the printing for the extra session exhausted all his appropriations, and, as the law bars him from incurring debts, he has no alternative before him but to discharge his force and stop his work. A "little deficiency bill" will be reported in a day or two for his relief, and then the small army which he sent upon the streets will resume their duties. In no department here is stoppage of work more seriously felt than in the Government Printing Office. All its employees are, with rare exceptions, dependent upon their daily wages for sustenance, hence a furlough necessarily carries hardship and distress with it.

All kinds of goods are rapidly advancing, and many who have had no corresponding advance in wages, or income, feel the effects to a great degree; but it is consoling to know that most articles can still be obtained at the old price in this town. One of our largest dealers, anticipating the advance in prices, literally loaded up, and now is selling most of his wares at less prices than a year ago.—Here are some samples:—

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